

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 DOTE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /030 W

-----032031 011823Z /53

R 011616Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2743

INFO USDOC WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7006

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, AU

SUBJECT: SALES PROSPECTS FOR NORTHROP F-5E'S TO AUSTRIA

REF: A. STATE 127906, B. VIENNA 4321 AND 3282

1. SUMMARY: IN CONNECTION CONTINUING NORTHROP INTEREST IN F-5E SALE TO GOA, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF RECENT STATEMENTS BY NEW DEFENSE MINISTER ROESCH THAT PROSPECTIVE PURCHASE OF INTERCEPTOR-FIGHTERS HAS BEEN MOVED TO BACK BURNER. END SUMMARY.

2. ROESCH RECENTLY STATED TO EMBASSY DEFENSE ATTACHE THAT GOA WOULD NOT PURCHASE NEW INTERCEPTOR-AIRCRAFT FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS. THE SAME APPLIES TO TANKS, ALTHOUGH AUSTRIA NOW HOPES TO DEVELOP AND MANUFACTUER ITS OWN TANKS. PRESS STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO ROESCH AND VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS INDICATE THAT GOA HAS DECIDED TO DELAY PURCHASE OF INTERCEPTORS FOR SEVERAL MORE YEARS--AND, PERHAPS, TO POSTPONE IT INDEFINITELY. IN A TELEVISED DISCUSSION IN EARLY JULY, LEADERS OF AUSTRIA'S THREE PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTIES UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED PURCHASE OF INTERCEPTROS AND TANKS AT THIS TIME.

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3. OSTENSIBLE REASONS FOR REJECTION, AS EXPRESSED BY POLITICIANS, AR THAT A GOOD FOREIGN POLICY IS BEST GUARANTEE OF AUSTRIAN SECURITY, AND PRESENT STATE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IS SUFFICIENT TO MEET CURRENT REQUIREMENTS. REAL REASONS, HOWEVER, APPEAR TO BE A COMBINATION OF BUDGET RESTRICTIONS WITH A PUBLIC OPINION

WHICH IS INCREASINGLY OPPOSED TO NEW INVESTMENT IN
MILITARY HARDWARE. BORG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENNA07006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770275-0392
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708108/aaaadony.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 127906, 77 VIENNA 4321
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1426248
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SALES PROSPECTS FOR NORTHROP F-5E'S TO AUSTRIA
TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, AU, NORTHROP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52f52150-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009